PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inge application of

Docket No: Q58571

asao TOKITA

Appln. No.: 09/538,475

Group Art Unit: 1722

Confirmation No.: 8142

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed: March 30, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY LOADING POWDER

MATERIAL INTO A MOLD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such

Atty Dkt No. Q58571

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/538,475

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documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

washington office 23373
customer number

Date: February 9, 2004

| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO | | | | | | Complete if Known | | |
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| ' INFORMATION DISCLOSURE | | | | SURE | Confirm | nation Number | 8142 | |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | | | Filing I | Date | March 30, 2000 | |
| | | | | | First Na | amed Inventor | Masao TOKITA | |
| | (use as | many sheet | s as necessa | ıry) | Art Uni | t | 1722 | |
| | | | | | Examin | er Name | T. Nguyen | |
| S | heet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorne | y Docket Number | Q58571 | |

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.